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Title: Regarding problems faced by weavers of West Bengal.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): West Bengal has a rich hadloom tradition, It houses around 7 lakh handloom weavers. Handloom occupy second place to agriculture in providing livelihood to the people of West Bengal. The popularity of Bengal handlooms is growing. As you are aware, textile weavers contribute considerably to our GDP and provide around 18% employment in the industrial sector. Its share of export is also rising over the years from 16% some years back. The flipside of their occupation is that weavers in the textiles industry face a lot of problems right from facing excessive dust, exposure to too much noise and chemicals etc. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to take initiatives to provide basic protective equipment like ear plugs, gloves, safety shoes, apart from a holistic review of whole gamut of issues concerning the industry.